



# Bitterroot National Forest

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## NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Hamilton, Montana, July 18, 2007 -Forest Implements Stage 1 and Stage II Fire Restrictions**

### **Stage II fire restrictions**

Due to extreme fire danger on the Bitterroot National forest, forest officials are moving to Stage II fire restrictions on the Montana portion of the Bitterroot National Forest excluding the Selway Bitterroot Wilderness and the Anaconda Wilderness beginning 0001 a.m., Monday, July 23, 2007. The following are prohibited under Stage II fire restrictions:

1. Building, maintaining, attending, or using a fire or campfire.
  2. Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or building, a developed recreation site or while stopped in an area at least three feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable materials.
  3. Operating motorized vehicles off designated roads and trails.
  4. The following acts are prohibited from 1:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.:
    - a. Operating a chainsaw or other equipment powered by an internal combustion engine for felling, bucking, skidding, road building and woodcutting during industrial operations or fire wood gathering.
    - b. Blasting, welding, or other activities that generate flame or flammable material.
- A patrol is required for two hour following cessation of all work as described in "a" and "b".**

The following are exempt from Stage II fire restrictions:

- Persons with a written permit issued by a Forest officer specifically authorizing the otherwise prohibited act.
- Persons using a fire solely fueled by liquid petroleum or LPG fuels that can be turned on and off.
- Persons conducting activities in those designated areas where the activity is specifically authorized by written posted notice.
- Any Federal, State, or local officer or member of an organized rescue or firefighting force in the performance of duties.

Motorized vehicles and ATVs are allowed on open designated roads and trails.

### **Stage I fire restrictions**

In addition, State I fire restrictions will be implemented on the Montana and Idaho portion of Selway Bitterroot Wilderness, and the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness; the Magruder Road Corridor in Idaho, and the Anaconda Pintler Wilderness within the Bitterroot National Forest, effective at 0001 a.m. Mountain Daylight Time on Friday, July 20, 2007. The following is prohibited under Stage I fire restrictions:

- **Campfires and the use of charcoal briquettes** will only be allowed in designated recreation sites and campgrounds and only in concrete or metal fire rings or metal grills provided at the site. Fires in rock fire rings are not permitted. In addition to the campfire restrictions, **smoking is permitted** only inside buildings, vehicles, developed recreation sites, or within three foot diameter areas cleared of burnable vegetation. On the Bitterroot National Forest, in the Magruder Road Corridor, campfires are allowed where posted **Designated Campfire Area** – Posted Designated Campfire area sites: Deep Creek, Magruder Crossing, Raven Creek, and Paradise.

The following are exempt from the Stage I fire restrictions:

- Persons with a written permit issued by a Forest officer specifically authorizing the otherwise prohibited act.
- Persons using a fire solely fueled by liquid petroleum or LPG fuels that can be turned on and off.
- Persons using approved fire pans fueled with charcoal briquettes in designated recreation sites on the Selway and Salmon river corridors.
- Persons using fully enclosed wood burning stoves equipped with a spark-arresting screen of 1/4 inch mesh hardware cloth on the Selway and Salmon river corridors.
- Persons conducting activities in those designated areas where the activity is specifically authorized by written posted notice.
- Any Federal, State, or local officer or member of an organized rescue or firefighting force in the performance of an official duty.

Stage I and Stage II Fire Restrictions in the areas described will remain in effect until the fire danger significantly decreases.

Violators of the Stage I and Stage II fire restrictions may face prosecution, including a \$5000 fine and up to six months in jail. For more information on the restrictions on federal land call the Bitterroot National Forest at (406) 363-7100.

### **Fire Update**

Five new starts showed up across the Bitterroot National Forest on Wednesday and were probably started from Tuesday's evening lightning storm. All of the fires are less than 1/10 area in size and are staffed with

fire fighters. Crews will continue to fight the existing starts, and lookouts and air patrol will monitor the Forest for any holdovers and additional new starts from the past days' storms.

The Bitterroot National Forest has established a fire information line. For fire information call 375-2639 which is open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the present time.